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Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. On 5 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/46, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations". By operative paragraphs 6 to 8 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

(a) Called upon all Member States, international organizations and civil society to continue to enrich the discussions on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the United Nations bodies in which disarmament and peace and security were addressed, taking into account the report of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and the proposals contained therein (A/68/514);

(b) Encouraged Member States, international organizations and civil society to take into account the report of the Open-ended Working Group and the proposals contained therein in the discussions in other forums in which humanitarian, health, human rights, environmental and development affairs were addressed;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including on steps that Member States had already taken to that end, and to submit a report on that subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

2. Pursuant to the above request, on 20 February 2014, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Australia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Australia actively participated in the Open-ended Working Group in 2013 and supported General Assembly resolution 68/46. Australia concluded that there were useful outcomes from this process and noted that there was no firm decision in the resolution to reconvene the Open-ended Working Group under the present formula. Australia remains open to ideas and initiatives that could advance the agenda for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the future. Nevertheless, Australia considers that the process in 2013 reached a logical conclusion.

Austria

[Original: English]
[1 June 2014]

Austria supports any approach that promises results in taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Austria was one of the co-initiators of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56. Austria perceives the work of the Open-ended Working Group and its results as a great success and supports the consensus report of the Open-ended Working Group (A/68/514), which offers a constructive starting point for building bridges and finding common solutions for the way forward.

Austria calls on the international community to undertake concrete work on the elements that are essential to complement the existing international legal framework, in order to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons, and to consider options for framing those elements into one or more instruments.

Austria supports all interim measures, be they of a practical, political or legal nature. They could be unilateral, bilateral and multilateral measures and include transparency and confidence-building. However, such measures cannot replace the required legal action at a multilateral level.

Nuclear disarmament is about creating human security for everyone around the globe. All States have a legitimate interest in multilateral nuclear disarmament. Austria calls for a broad approach to multilateral nuclear disarmament, engaging the whole membership of the United Nations, international and regional expertise, academia, parliamentarians and civil society at large. The substantive work by the Open-ended Working Group underscored again the added value of an inclusive and participatory approach.

Austria encourages the international community to re-establish its past focus on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons that underpin the collective efforts on nuclear disarmament, including in the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Austria firmly believes that this discussion contributes decisively to changing the discourse on nuclear disarmament, to include a human and cooperative security approach and to increase momentum. Austria has announced that it will host the third international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons on 8 and 9 December 2014 in Vienna.

Austria continues to promote and support education on disarmament and non-proliferation and high-level political events, such as the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held on 26 September 2013, for raising awareness of the importance of nuclear disarmament at all levels.

Austria encourages other States to engage all actors who can play a role in taking nuclear disarmament forward, including academia, parliamentarians and civil society at large.

Switzerland

[Original: English]
[1 June 2014]

The establishment of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons in 2013 demonstrated that the international community wished to see greater efforts in nuclear disarmament.

Discussions in the Open-ended Working Group emphasized that significant and steady progress is a collective responsibility of both non-nuclear-weapon States and States possessing nuclear weapons. In this regard, Switzerland refers to its activities in support of the implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Switzerland has also participated actively in the discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which have highlighted the imperative for moving more resolutely towards the shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Switzerland was encouraged by the open, constructive, transparent and interactive debates in the Open-ended Working Group among Member States, which also benefited from the active participation of civil society.

Switzerland welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the report of the Open-ended Working Group. Several recommendations contained in that report merit further consideration.

Of particular value were the discussions on the various approaches to achieving nuclear disarmament. Those discussions emphasized that while there is no simple solution to dealing with nuclear disarmament, more ambitious and comprehensive steps will be required to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Switzerland would see merit in deepening discussions on the "building blocks approach", how such building blocks would fit in the broader framework of a world without nuclear weapons and how they could be built around the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Switzerland welcomes the fact that the report of the Open-ended Working Group was transmitted to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. This can contribute to ongoing efforts to enrich the nuclear disarmament discourse.

The Open-ended Working Group has proven a very valuable tool and there could be merit in re-establishing it in due time. Member States could consider reconvening the group in the aftermath of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to considering progress made and discussing potential ways forward. In case progress on nuclear disarmament frameworks remains elusive, the Group could contribute to building trust and to identifying ways forward.

Should the Open-ended Working Group be re-established, Switzerland hopes that it will contribute to achieving progress towards a world without nuclear weapons, including by further exploring concrete options for taking forward

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[3 July 2014]

Burkina Faso welcomes the significant progress achieved under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted in 1968, notably the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, compliance with standards for nuclear programmes and initiatives aimed at the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Burkina Faso endorses the need for all States to meet their obligations under the Treaty.

In conformity with the Treaty, Burkina Faso recognizes that every State has a right to access nuclear technology for peaceful uses. Under our policy of making peaceful use of nuclear energy for the purposes of development, with assistance from our partners, we have launched several projects that have had good results in the areas of health, agriculture, animal husbandry and the environment. We are convinced that the judicious use of nuclear energy can help to reduce poverty.

For Burkina Faso, it is important to continue strengthening cooperation among States in order to contain, in a consensual manner, further nuclear proliferation for military purposes.

Canada

[Original: English]
[12 June 2014]

Canada is deeply concerned by the devastating humanitarian consequences of a potential nuclear weapons detonation. It is this concern that underpins the work that Canada and the international community have done and must continue to do, to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

In this spirit, Canada continues to support a pragmatic and progressive step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament that halts the spread of nuclear weapons, draws down existing stockpiles and irreversibly eliminates them. The three core components of this approach are a universalized Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, coupled with full compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and verification to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons components and technology, a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty that is fully in force for verifying the banning of all nuclear testing, and a fissile material cut-off treaty for verifying the banning of the production of fissile material. Such an approach provides the most practical and feasible path to realizing the commitments enshrined in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

While these steps remain the cornerstones of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, they need not, and should not, occur in isolation. They should be pursued simultaneously and further steps aimed at reducing the risk of use of nuclear weapons should be taken in parallel. With its partners in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, Canada has advocated for a number

multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, for instance through the development of additional legal instruments complementing the existing international legal framework. The active participation of all States possessing nuclear weapons is key in this regard.

Switzerland also hopes that the implementation of resolution 68/46 will have a positive impact on overcoming the stalemate in the disarmament machinery, in particular the Conference on Disarmament.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[1 June 2014]

Ukraine has always demonstrated its willingness to take forward multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament and has actively participated to that end, including in United Nations bodies that consider issues of disarmament, peace and security.

Ukraine has been and still remains a positive example of a country committed to the principle of having declared itself a non-nuclear State, despite the difficult circumstances in which it now finds itself owing to the aggressive policy being pursued by the Putin regime. The hypocritical stance of the Kremlin has resulted not only in the occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine but also in the destabilization of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

In contrast to the policy adopted by Russia, which has failed to acknowledge its violation of the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), Ukraine has consistently complied with its international obligations. In a joint statement issued by Ukraine and the United States of America at the Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March 2014, Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby reinforcing its leadership in matters of nuclear security and non-proliferation.

In addition, Ukraine actively participates in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts, established by General Assembly resolution 67/53 to make recommendations on possible aspects of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

of such initiatives, notably as they relate to transparency on nuclear weapons and reducing the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines.

Finally, it is important to recognize the security dimensions of nuclear weapons. Disarmament must be advanced in a way that does not jeopardize international stability and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all. It does not and cannot take place in a vacuum and must be accompanied by strict adherence by all States parties to their non-proliferation obligations, including those under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As such, the continued non-compliance by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with these obligations undermines overall efforts to advance multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[4 July 2014]

Costa Rica is of the view that the report of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons is an excellent basis on which to begin identifying commonalities.

The participation of the nuclear States in matters of nuclear disarmament is of fundamental importance. However, they do not have the only say in the matter, as the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is an issue that concerns all humankind.

Costa Rica believes that the "building blocks" proposal enjoyed broad support in the Working Group. This is a different concept from the "step-by-step" approach, because it requires only that the elements needed to achieve nuclear disarmament be identified. These building blocks are not dependent on one another and are not linked in a time sequence.

Several events that occurred in 2013 reflected the paralysis in the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. In addition to the activities of the Working Group, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament also took place. The points discussed at that meeting could be taken forward in order to seek a consensus that would help identify starting points for the negotiations. In addition, the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons alerted the world to the immediate as well as the short-, medium- and long-term consequences of nuclear explosions.

As a State party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), we consider it appropriate to continue to encourage the creation of new nuclear-weapon-free zones, which could be modelled on the example set by Latin America and the Caribbean, where the process was completed not immediately upon the adoption of the Treaty but after all countries had been given time to complete their internal procedures.

Any subsequent negotiation process on nuclear disarmament must include full engagement with civil society. Its contribution is crucial, not just in terms of activism but also in terms of the knowledge offered by scientific and academic researchers.

Lastly, we support all the efforts being undertaken in the area of nuclear disarmament education and the direct involvement of youth groups.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2014]

Nuclear weapons are one of the greatest threats to the survival of humanity and life on our planet.

The vast majority of Member States of the United Nations, including Cuba, believe that the only realistic solution to that problem is the eradication and total prohibition of nuclear weapons through a convention on nuclear disarmament that establishes legally binding measures to eliminate and completely ban such weapons within a given time frame.

Cuba attaches great importance to the efforts to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and is committed to taking forward the negotiation of a legally binding universal instrument for the general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Until the primary goal of nuclear disarmament is achieved, an agreement must be urgently adopted through which nuclear-weapon States give unequivocal and legally binding assurances not to use or threaten to use such weapons.

Cuba has contributed to the work of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56 with a mandate to develop proposals to take forward multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

As a contribution to the efforts of the Working Group, Cuba submitted a working paper in June 2013 containing 20 proposed practical actions to make speedy progress towards the objective of nuclear disarmament.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has submitted a proposal establishing a specific timetable for the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons until they are totally eliminated and prohibited by 2025, which should be considered by the international community.

Cuba underscores the importance of the historic convening, on 26 September 2013, of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, the first meeting of its kind in the history of the United Nations and a concrete step on the necessary path towards nuclear disarmament. That date has been enshrined in history as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

The failure to implement the agreement reached at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the convening in 2012 of an international conference for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is troubling and unjustifiable. Cuba urges that such a conference should be convened in 2014 without further delay.

Cuba regrets that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in May 2014, concluded without adopting substantive

recommendations. Cuba submitted an updated proposed action plan on nuclear disarmament for adoption at the 2015 Review Conference.

Denmark

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

Denmark shares the growing frustration generated by the absence, for more than a decade, of concrete outcomes of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in general and of the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in particular.

In reaction to this, attempts have been made to organize collective deliberations in temporary formations outside the Conference, such as the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons (pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56) and the Group of Governmental Experts to make recommendations on possible aspects which could contribute to a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (resolution 67/53). Denmark welcomes and supports those efforts to seek further inspiration and new impetus.

The work of the Open-ended Working Group, completed in August 2013, proved to be positive and productive. Member States engaged in open-minded and constructive dialogue. Positions and concepts were presented in new and less confrontational forms. A report presenting different and new approaches to nuclear disarmament voiced during the sessions was agreed by consensus and forwarded to the General Assembly.

One such new approach is contained in the working paper presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by 20 countries, including Denmark, and entitled "Building blocks for a world without nuclear weapons" (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.23). It endeavours to overcome the gap between the so-called "step-by-step" and "comprehensive" approaches and merits further consideration.

The Conference on Disarmament failed again in 2013 to adopt a programme of work. No progress has been seen so far in 2014. In this light, convening a second Open-ended Working Group, with a view to deepening and broadening the deliberations of 2013 and building bridges across differences could be considered. It should possibly meet after the Group of Governmental Experts has terminated its work and reported to the General Assembly. All nuclear-weapon States should be encouraged to participate.

At the same time, while recalling the right of all States to participate in disarmament negotiations, deliberations should be intensified as to how the work of the Conference on Disarmament might be reinvigorated. Changing working methods and restructuring the format of the Conference, including proposals on expansion or rotation of the membership and a stronger role for representatives of civil society and international organizations, could be a way forward.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[30 May 2014]

I have the honour to inform you, with respect to your note of 20 February 2014 (No. ODA/29-2014/MNDN) concerning General Assembly resolution 68/46 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations" adopted on 5 December 2013, that the Armed Forces of El Salvador recognize the importance of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in the region and around the world, strengthening ties and building trust and security among countries in order to unify our efforts to reduce nuclear arsenals, and developing strategies and making commitments that will contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in order to promote global peace and security.

The Republic of El Salvador recognizes the right of States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and therefore considers it necessary to encourage States that possess nuclear arms to provide security assurances.

In this context, the Republic of El Salvador has ratified various treaties and conventions in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and therefore supports the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety developed by the Director General of IAEA, particularly with respect to the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response, the review and strengthening of IAEA safety standards and their implementation and the assessment of vulnerabilities in the safety of nuclear power plants.

France

[Original: French]
[30 May 2014]

France is fully committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to pursuing efforts that will lead to the achievement of that goal in a manner that promotes international stability. To that end, France takes a holistic, progressive and practical approach.

In the multilateral context, France has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It consistently advocates in international forums for an early start to negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, pursuant to document CD/1299 and the mandate established therein. The conclusion of such a treaty represents, in its view, the next logical step in nuclear disarmament.

With regard to ways of taking forward multilateral negotiations and in particular the appropriate forums, the position of France remains the same as that set out in the explanation of its vote on resolution 68/46.

In particular, France is of the view that the General Assembly has competent and useful forums in which to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, along with the bodies mentioned at the first special session of the General Assembly

on disarmament in 1978 (the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament).

For that reason, France sought in 2012 to alert the General Assembly to the likely consequences of certain initiatives that had created parallel forums. With regard to the establishment of an open-ended working group, France had expressed concerns as to the coherence between that initiative and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its 2010 action plan, which was adopted by consensus. The final report of the Open-ended Working Group, some elements of which France highlighted in the aforementioned explanation of its vote, showed that those concerns were well founded. More generally, those initiatives have in effect resulted only in reopening the debate on the "step-by-step" approach and on priorities for negotiation.

In this context, France sees the commencement of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material, rather than further work by the Open-ended Working Group, as the best means of advancing nuclear disarmament.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Georgia welcomes resolution 67/56 by which the General Assembly established the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

Georgia shares the goal of a peaceful and secure world free from nuclear weapons. There are major challenges still prevalent in the fields of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control.

The Conference on Disarmament should exercise a significantly greater influence and produce a larger impact in the field of its competence, especially in view of the current international security environment. This is a world of new challenges but also of new opportunities. The Conference on Disarmament, as a single multilateral disarmament forum, has the potential to address the challenges that confront us. There are sufficient instruments at our disposal, both in dealing with the threats and in helping to realize the opportunities.

To match this objective, we must spare no effort in order to promote revitalization of this unique forum for negotiations, which has undeniably played a crucial role in elaborating several major international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

The issue of the effectiveness and efficiency of the present set of international treaties and agreements in the field has been raised quite frequently. Some States have expressed the view that several of the existing mechanisms might not be perfect and that new ones might be elaborated if required.

Georgia emphasizes that while negotiating the new instruments aimed at addressing the emerging security requirements, the international community should pay special attention to making the already agreed mechanisms truly universal.

Obviously, non-compliance of some States in certain cases can irreversibly erode the current security system and produce undesired large-scale negative implications. Any discussion of this issue can only be realistic and effective if all States fulfil in good faith the commitments and obligations they have already undertaken, which derive from existing documents and serve as the building blocks of the existing security architecture. Non-compliance with any one of them robs part of the solidity from the current security system.

In order to move forward in nuclear disarmament and elimination of the risk of catastrophic humanitarian consequences from the use of nuclear weapons, Georgia suggests focusing on:

- Universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Universalization of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment
- Universalization of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[20 March 2014]

Iraq supports the principle of multilateralism in nuclear disarmament negotiations as a fundamental and important element for ensuring transparency and mutual trust. Iraq encourages all States to participate in such negotiations, which give credibility to the international community, as it works to fulfil its collective responsibility for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in view of their highly destructive nature. It would be difficult to preserve international peace and security in the absence of shared, practical and transparent solutions, which should be developed through multilateral negotiations leading to the conclusion and implementation of collective agreements. Nor can disarmament and arms control be realized through individual or unilateral efforts. Rather, those goals require multilateral communication and negotiating forums in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Iraq is therefore convinced that the United Nations must fulfil its fundamental and important role by promoting multilateralism, both in principle and in practice, through negotiations on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

Iraq attaches particular importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament treaties. Intensified efforts are required in order to ensure that the Conference can emerge from its current stagnation and once again fulfil its mandated role.

Japan

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

In accordance with operative paragraph 8 of resolution 68/46 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", adopted by the General Assembly in December 2013, Japan submits its views to the Secretary-General on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

As Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida stated in his speech in Nagasaki in January 2014 on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it is essential to begin with a clear understanding of the humanitarian aspect of nuclear weapons and to steadily build up realistic and practical efforts based on an objective assessment of the reality of the immediate nuclear risks in a severe security environment. Although this may seem to be a detour towards "a world free of nuclear weapons", Japan believes that it is actually the shortest path.

Japan submitted a working paper entitled "Building blocks for a world without nuclear weapons" to the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. The international community should focus not on differences but on common ground by identifying concrete and practical building blocks for the shared goal. The building blocks approach foresees the possibility of parallel and simultaneous steps and they can be multilateral, plurilateral, bilateral or unilateral.

Regarding multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, which constitute part of a number of building blocks, Japan considers a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices as the next logical step towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Japan supports the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on this issue, established in accordance with resolution 67/53, and looks forward to their work and outcome, which can significantly contribute to future negotiations of this treaty.

Libya

[Original: Arabic]
[15 April 2014]

Libya affirms its support for General Assembly resolution 68/46. The nuclear-weapon States must prove their good intentions by setting out an internationally verifiable timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons and conduct negotiations in accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

It believes that the delay in taking practical steps towards serious and constructive negotiations on nuclear disarmament increases the desire of other States to possess nuclear weapons, under the pretexts of sovereignty and national security.

Many States consider nuclear weapons to be a deterrent and seek to retain or acquire them. Such weapons, however, are in fact a threat and grave danger to any

party that possesses them. That is why Libya abandoned its military nuclear programme and signed several relevant instruments, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and an additional protocol on comprehensive safeguards.

Libya calls on the Russian Federation and the United States of America to follow up on the practical and positive steps that they took in 2009 to reduce their nuclear weapon arsenals. It also calls on them to bring the other nuclear-weapons States into this process and to set out an internationally verifiable timetable for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The international community must take advantage of the international political climate, which has become very conducive and encouraging, and start more serious multilateral negotiations in the spirit of a genuine desire to achieve international peace and security and total nuclear disarmament.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Malaysia recognises that, in recent years, there have been initiatives outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Conference on Disarmament towards achieving the goal of non-proliferation. While Malaysia has been supportive of such initiatives, we are disappointed that there has not been much progress at the multilateral level in the efforts towards nuclear disarmament. We are of the view that there is still much distrust among the nuclear-armed States. We are further of the view that there is no real political commitment, especially from the nuclear-armed States, to change the status quo. This is evident from the fact that nuclear disarmament has not been pursued with urgency, whether inside or outside the framework of the Treaty. Malaysia calls on those States to show leadership on the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

Given the distrust among the nuclear-armed States and the lack of political commitment, Malaysia is of the view that the goal of achieving complete and comprehensive nuclear disarmament is unlikely. This is despite the fact that the international community has in the past successfully eliminated a whole class of weapon systems through the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Malaysia is of the view that the best way to achieve complete and comprehensive nuclear disarmament would be to commence negotiations on a legally binding instrument or a framework of instruments to prohibit and ban nuclear weapons altogether. During the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, Costa Rica and Malaysia submitted a proposal on a model nuclear weapons convention (A/62/650). The document was also submitted as a working paper during the session of the Open-ended Working Group in 2013 to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

The model convention sets forth legal, technical and political elements for the establishment and maintenance of a nuclear weapons-free world. It could be used in

its entirety or selected segments could be used as a basis for negotiations on a legally binding instrument or a framework of instruments to prohibit and ban nuclear weapons.

Malaysia attaches great importance to the narrative regarding the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. That initiative has clearly garnered support from the majority of countries. We see this approach as one which should be at the core of discussions on nuclear disarmament. Malaysia hopes that this initiative will translate into a diplomatic process towards finalizing a legally binding instrument to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2014]

Mexico was one of the States that sponsored General Assembly resolutions 67/56 and 68/46, both of which bear the title "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations". The purpose of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to the first of the two resolutions was to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of the scourge of nuclear weapons, in the light of the failure of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil its mandate for more than 15 years.

The work of the Open-ended Working Group encouraged a proactive and rich debate of a kind that had not been seen for a long time in the Conference on Disarmament, or even in other forums that deal with the matter, held in an open, constructive, inclusive and transparent manner, bringing together States members and non-members of the Conference, international organizations, civil society, academics and academic researchers. In addition, the Group was chaired by Costa Rica, a non-member of the Conference on Disarmament, which has no armed forces and has championed the achievement of peace in various domains.

The final report of the Working Group (A/68/514), adopted without a vote, proposes various approaches on how to take forward such negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and on what their outcomes should be.

In addition, Mexico believes that it is important to take into account the lessons learned from other recent negotiation processes that led to the adoption of legally binding instruments, some of which banned particular categories of weapons. Those lessons include:

- The establishment of ties among States, international organizations and civil society.
- The setting of clear goals for the end of negotiations, rather than preconditions for them to begin.
- An understanding of the reasoning underlying the objectives being negotiated. In this regard, the humanitarian impact of weapons, rather than considerations of their military usefulness, has been the driving force behind such processes.

- Discussions based on factual, technical and scientific elements that give credibility to arguments against nuclear weapons.
- The establishment of goals by the participants without preconceived ideas regarding the outcomes of the negotiations, regardless of the type and style of negotiation adopted.
- Inclusive and informal consultations to establish the terms of reference of negotiations before they begin instead of expecting them to be defined in situ.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

The Netherlands is of the opinion that the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons proved to be a valuable exercise, as it presented the international community with the opportunity to discuss nuclear disarmament in a format that allowed the participation of all Member States. Both States and civil society participated in and contributed to the informal discussions on an equal footing. With regard to the content of the discussions, the Open-ended Working Group set a high standard through focusing on common grounds, rather than emphasizing differences. The Netherlands participated in the Group as Co-Chair for the session on verification and transparency and actively contributed to the debate with regular interventions. As a "friend of the chair", the Netherlands was also involved in the drafting of the final report. All these positive elements made it possible to meaningfully conclude the work of the Group with a consensus report.

The question is whether a follow-up to the work of the Open-ended Working Group would bring the international community further along the path towards nuclear disarmament negotiations. The Netherlands is of the opinion that the success of the Group can, for an important part, be attributed to the circumstances in which its work took place. Many States had expressed frustration about the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament and the pace of nuclear disarmament. The Open-ended Working Group channelled those frustrations and paved the way for other initiatives such as the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. In addition, the Netherlands is of the opinion that for discussions of nuclear disarmament the States possessing nuclear weapons should be present. Of those States only India and Pakistan participated in the Open-ended Working Group.

However, the idea of "building blocks" that came up during the work of the Open-ended Working Group could be explored further. Participating States were in wide agreement that, regardless of the preferred approach (step-by-step or a nuclear weapons convention), it was necessary to identify the various elements or building blocks that are needed to reach a nuclear-weapon-free world. To this end, the Netherlands co-sponsored the working paper proposed by Japan on building blocks, which was submitted to the Open-ended Working Group. That paper was also submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

and to the Conference on Disarmament and is therefore taken up by other disarmament forums.

Despite the earlier contribution of the Open-ended Working Group, the Netherlands is not convinced that a follow-up to it would be the most fruitful way forward.

New Zealand

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

New Zealand valued the opportunity provided by the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and of examining in depth not only issues related to the process, but also the substance of nuclear disarmament, with a view to overcoming the stalemate in the disarmament machinery.

New Zealand joined with the New Agenda Coalition in submitting views to the Open-ended Working Group on how to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The essence of the Coalition submission was that future work on nuclear disarmament needed to be guided and underpinned by a clear, legally binding and multilateral commitment to nuclear disarmament, backed by clearly defined benchmarks and timelines. The Coalition expanded on this position in its working paper on article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.18).

In its national capacity, New Zealand has also strongly supported all avenues which promise to advance nuclear disarmament. New Zealand delivered a statement to the First Committee of the General Assembly in 2013 on behalf of 125 States on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which followed similar statements delivered to the General Assembly in 2012 and the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference. It actively participated in the Oslo and Nayarit conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and supports the initiative of Austria to organize a third conference in December 2014. It supported the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament in September 2013 and its follow-up resolution.

During the work of the Open-ended Working Group, New Zealand moderated a panel discussion on international law concerning the use of nuclear weapons and remains of the view that further work on this question would be valuable, for example, through conducting a study on the recent evolution of international law in areas relevant to nuclear weapons, including international humanitarian law, international criminal law, human rights law and environmental law.

New Zealand emphasizes that all future work on nuclear disarmament should take into account the views and participation of all States and other relevant actors, such as civil society, parliamentarians and international organizations and must have humanitarian considerations at its core. The Open-ended Working Group provided

an excellent forum for doing this and, absent progress in other bodies on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, should be reconvened.

Norway

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

The Permanent Mission of Norway has the honour to present the Norwegian views on the issues outlined in operative paragraph 8 in General Assembly resolution 68/46.

On 4 and 5 March 2013, Norway organized a conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons detonations. The aim was to facilitate a facts-based discussion to examine aspects of nuclear weapon detonations that have not been on the nuclear disarmament agenda for a number of years. The conference contributed to a renewed and a broader awareness of and interest in nuclear disarmament.

As General Assembly resolution 67/56 has been implemented and the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons has fulfilled its mandate, we see no benefit in continuing this exercise, but that one should rather focus on contributing to strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and reinforcing the implementation of the Treaty, including the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. Norway intends to contribute actively to a successful outcome of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[23 May 2014]

As a member of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama took part in the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. The Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations was a sponsor of the joint statement on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and of the draft resolutions on transparency in armaments and on united action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, it collaborated on resolutions concerning the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the amendments thereto.

Panama has ratified and incorporated into its domestic legislation, inter alia, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water. Panama voted in favour of the resolution on the conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.